We claim:

1   1.   A proxy domain name registration system comprising:

2   (a)   a registrar installation including:

3   (i)   means for receiving domain name registration requests from

4   customers,

5   (ii)   means for communicating a registration request to a registry

6   including a domain name and domain owner personal contact information,

7   (iii)   means for communicating a domain name and personal contact

8   information to a proxy domain owner, and

9   (iv)   means for storing domain owner contact information.

10   (b)   a proxy installation including:

11   (i)   means for receiving and storing personal contact information

12   communicated to the proxy installation by the registrar installation, and

13   (ii)   means for communicating proxy personal contact information to

14   the registrar.

15   (c)   said registrar installation being responsive to the communication of

16   personal contact information by the proxy installation to:

17   (i)   submit a registration request and the proxy personal contact

18   information from the proxy installation to a registry, and

19   (ii)   store that proxy contact information in said means for storing

20   domain owner contact information.

1   2.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the proxy installation further comprises

2   means enabling the customer to signal a command to cancel proxy registration.

1   3.   The system according to claim 2, wherein the means enabling the customer to

2   signal a command to cancel includes means responsive to the customer's signal of the command

3   to cancel for automatically causing transfer of ownership to the customer by the registrar.

1   4.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the proxy installation comprises means

2   for passing email along to the customer.

1   5.   The system according to claim 4, further comprising means for blocking one or

2   more categories of email from reaching the customer.

1   6.   The system according to claim 5, wherein the categories of email are selected

2   from the group consisting of SPAM, unauthorized bulk email, unauthorized commercial email

3   and pornography.

1   7.   A proxy domain name registration system including:

2   (a)   a registrar computer installation, and

3   (b)   a proxy computer installation;

4   (c)   the registrar computer installation establishing a web site;

5   (d)   an interactive page on the web site enabling a customer to request the

6   registration of a domain name;

7   (e)   a message on a page on the web site prompting a customer to indicate

8   whether proxy registration of a domain name is desired;

9   (f)   a field on a page of the web site for a customer to enter a desired domain

10   name;

11   (g)   a connection for communicating from the registrar computer installation to

12   the proxy computer installation:

13   (i)   a request for proxy information for use in registering the domain

14   name to a proxy, and

15   (ii)   customer information,

16   (h)   the proxy computer installation including a database in computer memory

17   for storing in association a domain name and customer information;

18   (i)   a connection at the proxy computer installation for communicating proxy

19   information to the registrar computer installation;

20   (j)   a registrar computer installation database in computer memory and

21   adapted to store at least part of the proxy information in association with the domain name; and

22   (k)   a registry-connecting communication connection at the registrar computer

23   installation for sending to a domain name registry a request for registration of the domain name

24   in the name of the proxy and at least a portion of the proxy information.

1   8.   The system according to claim 7, further comprising a communication input at the

2   proxy computer installation for receipt of communications for customers.

1   9.   The system according to claim 8, wherein the communication input at the proxy

2   computer installation is a proxy web site having an interactive page enabling a customer to

3   indicate cancellation of proxy registration.

1   10.   The system according to claim 9, wherein the proxy computer installation is

2   adapted to communicate a request for cancellation to the registrar when cancellation is requested

3   by a customer and to forward to the registrar the relevant proxy domain name and associated

4   customer information, the registrar computer installation being responsive to a request for

5   cancellation from the proxy computer installation to contact the registry and effect a transfer of

6   the domain name registration from the proxy to the customer and to supply at least a part of the

7   customer information to the registry and replace in the database at the registrar computer

8   installation at least a portion of the proxy information with at least a portion of the customer

9   information.

1   11.   The system according to claim 7, further comprising a proxy email server adapted

2   to receive email, said proxy information including a proxy email address, the registrar computer

3   installation publishing the proxy email address in association with a domain name, whereby

4   email intended for the customer is directed to the proxy email server.

1   12.   A method of domain name registration comprising:

2   (a)   providing a computer installation with internet access,

3   (b)   receiving from customers domain name requests directed to the computer

4   installation via the internet,

5   (c)   offering customers a choice of proxy registration of the domain names,

6   (d)   receiving proxy registration requests in response to step (c),

7   (e)   forwarding domain names and customer information to a proxy,

8   (f)   receiving proxy contact information from the proxy,

9   (g)   registering the domain names with a registry, and

10   (h)   providing proxy contact information to the registry for each domain

11   registered by proxy registration.

1   13.   The method of domain name registration according to claim 1, further

2   comprising:

3   (i)   requesting customer contact information from customers requesting proxy

4   registration,

5   (j)   transferring to the proxy for storage by the proxy the customer contact

6   information in association with domain names registered by proxy.

1   14.   The method of domain name registration according to claim 13, further

2   comprising:

3   (k)   storing proxy contact information in association with the domain names

4   registered by proxy.

1   15.   The method of domain name registration according to claim 14, further

2   comprising:

3   (l)   directing to the proxy electronic communications addressed to a domain

4   name registered by proxy.

1   16.   The method of domain name registration according to claim 12, further

2   comprising providing a cancellation procedure to customers.

1   17.   The method of domain name registration according to claim 16, in response to

2   each cancellation procedure, transferring ownership of a domain name registration by proxy to

3   the customer.

1   18.   The method of domain name registration according to claim 14, further

2   comprising providing a cancellation procedure to customers, in response to each cancellation

3   procedure transferring ownership of a domain name registration by proxy to the customer by:

4   (i)   retrieving customer contact information from the proxy,

5   (ii)   retrieving proxy contact information from storage,

6   (iii) transferring customer contact information to the registry at which

7   the domain name is registered, and

8   (iv)   replacing in storage the proxy contact information with the

9   customer contact information.

1   19.   A method of providing proxy registration of a domain name including:

2   (a)   receiving from a registrar a request to take ownership of a domain name

3   registration as a proxy,

4   (b)   receiving from the registrar contact information of a customer of the

5   registrar seeking proxy registration of the domain name,

6   (c)   sending to the registrar proxy contact information for use by the registrar

7   in registering the domain name with a registry, and

8   (d)   storing the contact information of the customer.

1   20.   The method of providing proxy registration according to claim 19, further

2   comprising receiving electronic communications addressed to the domain name.

1   21.   The method of providing proxy registration according to claim 20, further

2   comprising sending electronic communications from the domain name, absent identification of

3   the customer.

1   22.   The method of providing proxy registration according to claim 19, further

2   comprising sending customer contact information to a registrar upon notification of cancellation

3   by a customer.

1   23.   The method of providing proxy registration according to claim 19, further

2   comprising blocking at least some electronic communications to the domain name.

1   24.   The method of providing proxy registration according to claim 23, wherein

2   blocking at least some electronic communications comprises blocking all electronic

3   communications to the domain name.

1   25.   The method of providing proxy registration according to claim 23, wherein

2   blocking at least some electronic communications comprises blocking electronic

3   communications selected from the group consisting of SPAM, unauthorized bulk email,

4   unauthorized commercial email, pornography, virus, worms and trojan horses.

1   26. A domain name by proxy computer program comprising:

2   (a) a Web site defining program including programming for:

3   (i) receiving from a customer at the Web site a domain name

4 registration request,

5   (ii) offering to the customer at the Web site a registration by proxy

6 option,

7   (iii) receiving customer contact information,

8   (b) a communication program for communicating with a registry including

9 programming for:

10   (i) communicating a domain name, registration request and registrant

11 information to the registry, and

12   (c) a communication program for communicating with a proxy including

13 programming for:

14   (i) requesting proxy information for use in association with a domain

15 name registration request.

1   27. The domain name by proxy computer program of claim 26, wherein the

2 communication program for communicating with a registry comprises programming associating

3 at least a portion of the proxy information and forwarding that to the registry with the domain

4 name to be registered.

1   28. The domain name by proxy computer program of claim 27, further comprising a

2 programming to store in memory at least a further portion of the proxy information in association

3 with the domain name.

1   29. The domain name by proxy computer program of claim 28, wherein the at least a

2 portion of the proxy information forwarded to the registry includes the identity of the proxy.

1   30. The domain name by proxy computer program of claim 29, wherein the at least a

2 further portion of the proxy information stored in memory includes proxy contact information.

1   31. The domain name by proxy computer program of claim 30, wherein the proxy

2 contact information includes proxy email address.

1   32.   The domain name by proxy computer program of claim 26, wherein the

2   communication program for communicating with a proxy includes programming for forwarding

3   to the proxy customer information.

1   33.   The domain name by proxy computer program of claim 32, wherein the customer

2   information includes customer contact information.

1   34.   The domain name by program computer program of claim 32, wherein the

2   customer contact information includes customer email address.

1   35.   A method of proxy email address management including:

2   (a)   associating a proxy email address with a customer having an actual email

3   address,

4   (b)   receiving email intended for the customer at the proxy email address, and

5   (c)   forwarding email containing the messages intended for the customer to the

6   customer's actual email address.

1   36.   The method according to claim 35, further comprising recording the proxy email

2   address in a database in association with the customer's actual email address, and looking up the

3   customer's actual email address upon receiving email messages intended for the customer.

1   37.   The method according to claim 36, further comprising causing to be displayed a

2   Web page at a proxy domain name, said Web page bearing said proxy email address.

1   38.   The method according to claim 36, further comprising:

2   (d)   receiving email addressed to the proxy from a customer,

3   (e)   copying the content of the email addressed to the proxy into an email from

4   the proxy to a third party identified by the customer.

1   39.   A proxy email computer installation including:

2   (a)   a database in memory storing customer information in association with a

3   proxy email addresses, said customer information including customers' actual email addresses;

4   (b)   an email server to receive email intended for a customer at a proxy email

5   address stored in the database in association with that customer's information;

6   (c)   programming to detect email received at the server intended for

7   customers;

8   (d)   programming for retrieving a customer's actual email address from the

9   database upon receipt of email addressed to the proxy email address associated in the database

10   with that customer's customer information;

11   (e)   programming to copy the content of an email addressed to a customer's

12   proxy email address into an email to that customer's email address; and

13   (f)   a connection to a communication link for forwarding email to customers'

14   actual email addresses.

1   40.   The proxy email computer installation according to claim 39; further comprising:

2   (g)   filtering software for preventing objectionable email being forwarded to a

3   customer.

1   41.   The proxy email computer installation according to claim 40, further comprising,

2   in said database, an indication of customer's choices for email filtering.

1   42.   The proxy email computer installation according to claim 41, wherein the

2   customer's choices include:

3   (i)   no filtering,

4   (ii)   blocking all email addressed to the proxy email address associated

5   with the customer information, and

6   (iii)   blocking objectionable email addressed to the proxy email address

7   associated with the customer information.

1   43.   The proxy email computer installation according to claim 42, wherein the blocked

2   objectionable email is selected from the group consisting of SPAM, bulk email, advertising,

3   pornography and code to interfere with a computer's workings.

1   44.   Programming for a proxy entity in a proxy domain name registration system

2   including:

3   (a)   communications programming enabling a computer to receive:

4   (i)   a domain name;

5   (ii)   a request for proxy domain name registrant information; and

6   (iii)   customer information for a customer that has requested proxy

7   domain name registration,

8   (b)   a database,

9   (c)   programming to store in the database the customer information in

10   association with the domain name;

11   (d)   programming to retrieve the domain name and customer information; and

12   (e)   further communications programming enabling the computer to send to a

13   registrar:

14   (i)   the proxy information to be used in registering a domain name in

15   the name of the proxy.

1   45.   The programming according to claim 44 further comprising:

2   (f)   Web site programming to establish an interactive Web site for

3   communication with the proxy.

1   46.   The programming according to claim 45, wherein the Web site programming

2   includes a page for receiving a request for cancellation of a proxy registration.

1   47.   The programming according to claim 46, further comprising programming

2   responsive to the request for cancellation of the proxy registration to cause the retrieval of the

3   customer information associated with the proxy domain name registration to be cancelled, and to

4   cause the further communication programming to send the retrieved customer information to the

5   registrar.

1   48.   A computer program for proxy email address management comprising:

2   (a)   programming establishing a database for storing customer information in

3 association with a proxy email address, said information including customers' actual email

4 addresses;

5   (b)   programming to identify email intended for a customer addressed to the

6 customer's proxy email address;

7   (c)   programming to retrieve a customer's actual email address;

8   (d)   programming to copy the content of email to a customer's proxy email

9 address into email to a customer's actual email address; and

10   (e)   programming operative to send the email to a customer's actual email

11 address.

1   49.   The programming according to claim 48, further comprising programming to

2 identify email from a customer, and programming for copying the content of the email from a

3 customer into an email from the proxy to the customer's intended recipient.

1   50.   The programming according to claim 48, further comprising programming for

2 filtering out objectionable email.

1   51.   The programming according to claim 50, further comprising programming for

2 receiving a customer's choices of filtering and for storing those choices in the database,

3 programming to recognize a customer's choice and filtering email to the customer based on the

4 customer's stored choice.

1   52.   A method for performing a proxy registration of a domain name for a customer,

2 comprising the steps of:

3   (a)   receiving a domain name, a proxy registration request and personal

4 customer information from a customer,

5   (b)   storing the personal customer information, wherein the personal customer

6 information is not made publicly available, and

7   (c)   registering the domain name with a registry using proxy information,

8 wherein the domain name and the proxy information are made publicly available.

1   53.   The method according to claim 52, further comprising the steps of:

2   (d)   receiving a cancel proxy registration request from a customer, and

3   (e)   registering the domain name with the registry using the personal customer

4   information, wherein the domain name and the personal customer information are made publicly

5   available.

1   54.   The method according to claim 52, further comprising the step of:

2   (d)   contractually granting legal rights in the domain name to the customer.

1   55.   The method according to claim 52, wherein the domain name, the proxy

2   registration request and personal information from the customer are received from the customer

3   via an interactive web site.

1   56.   The method according to claim 52, wherein the domain name is registered using

2   proxy information by communicating the domain name and the proxy information to the registry

3   via the Internet.

1   57.   The method according to claim 52, wherein the proxy information includes a

2   proxy email address, further comprising the steps of:

3   (d)   receiving an email addressed to the proxy email address, and

4   (e)   forwarding the email to the customer.

1   58.   The method according to claim 57, further comprising the step of:

2   (f)   filtering the email prior to forwarding the email to the customer.

1   59.   The method according to claim 58, further comprising the step of:

2   (g)   receiving email filtering instructions from the customer in order to

3   customize the filtering of the email.

1   60.   A proxy domain name registration system comprising:

2   (a)   means for receiving a desired domain name and a proxy registration

3   request from a customer,

4   (b)   means for receiving and storing actual personal contact information from

5   the customer, and

6   (c)   means for communicating a registration request, the desired domain name,

7   and an owner proxy personal contact information differing from the customer's actual personal

8   contact information to a registry.

1   61.   The proxy domain name registration system according to claim 60, further

2   comprising:

3   (d)   means for storing the proxy personal contact information, whereby actual

4   personal contact information corresponding to a proxy registrant can be retrieved.

1   62.   The system according to claim 60, further comprising means for sending to a

2   customer email addressed to that customer's proxy contact information.

1   63.   The system according to claim 60, further comprising means associating in

2   computer memory a customer's proxy and actual contact information.

1   64.   The system according to claim 60, further comprising means enabling the

2   customer to signal a command to cancel proxy registration.

1   65.   The system according to claim 64, wherein the means enabling the customer to

2   signal a command to cancel includes means responsive to the customer's signal of the command

3   to cancel for automatically causing transfer of ownership to the customer by the registrar.

1   66.   The system according to claim 60, further comprising means for passing email

2   along to the customer.

1   67.   The system according to claim 66, further comprising means for blocking one or

2   more categories of email from reaching the customer.

1   68. The system according to claim 67, wherein the categories of email are selected

2 from the group consisting of SPAM, unauthorized bulk email, unauthorized commercial email

3 and pornography.

1   69. A proxy domain name registration system including:

2   (a) a computer installation,

3   (b) the computer installation establishing a web site;

4   (c) an interactive page on the web site enabling a customer to request the

5 registration of a domain name;

6   (d) a field on a page of the web site for a customer to enter a desired domain

7 name;

8   (e) a message on a page on the web site prompting a customer to indicate

9 whether proxy registration of a domain name is desired;

10   (f) computer installation programming operative in response to a customer's

11 indication of a desire for proxy registration to associate proxy registrant information with the

12 domain name;

13   (g) a database in computer memory for storing in association customer

14 information and at least one of the domain name and the proxy information, and

15   (h) a registry-connecting communication connection at the computer

16 installation for sending to a domain name registry a request for registration of the domain name

17 in the name of the proxy registrant and at least a portion of the proxy registrant information.

1   70. The system according to claim 69, further comprising a communication input for

2 receipt of electronic communications for customers.